NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1883.

MORE UN LALANCED BIDS.

NO CHECK TO THE EVIL SYSTEM.

MR. THOMPSON CONTINUING TO DISREGARD THE NEW LAW.

CONTRACTS AWARDED ON UNBALANCED BIDS WITH-IN A FEW WEEKS. .

The frauds and abuses in city contracts are further exposed to-day. It is shown that there Aug. 9. John Phelan... has been no change in the practice of giving out contracts on unbalanced bids in the Public Works Department. The alteration in the law, under which Commissioner Thompson admits his power to reject such bids, has not checked the evil. Specimen contracts are given to-day in which it is shown that unbalanced bids of the worst kind have been accepted recently. What losses will result to the city from these contracts will not be known until they are completed. It is shown that the prices paid on paving contracts, let on the same day for the same kind of work, vary in an extraordinary manner. Another contract with John Brady is given, in which the returns show that the amount of excavation was nearly three times as great as the estimate, and that Mr. Brady consequently receives nearly three times the amount for which he contracted to do the

The exposure of the fraudulent contract system continues to attract marked attention from the people and the press.

CONTRACTS LET UNDER THE NEW LAW. UNBALANCED BIDS OF THE WORST KIND APPEARING

IN RECENT AWARDS. Mr. Thompson is trying to create the impression that he put an end to the system of unbalanced bids when the Consolidation Act, which went into effect on April 1, 1883, expressly by its wording gave him the power to reject all bids. This is not true. The system is still in a flourishing condition in the Public Works Department. If the statute as it existed before the Consolidation Act became law was in any way responsible for the system before that time, as Commissioner Thompson endeavors to make it appear, in what way will he account for letting so many contracts in the same way since the law was changed 1 A lage number of contracts have been let on unbalanced bids since April 1. How much the city is losing in this way no one can tell at present. The loss depends in great measare upon the developments under the contract. In the first place, the system causes the city to pay outrageously high prices. Then, if the returns on the completed work vary widely from the estimates, the loss is far greater. The law has in no way been changed in regard to preparing estimates. And until a contract is finished the records of the Finance Department will not show just how fictitious were the estimates on quantities. It is generally a good while from the time a contract is let until the final vouchers are presented to the Controller. The whole work of preparing estimates, on the misleading character of which the success of unbalanced bids depends is in charge of the Public Works Department. Some of this work is done by employes who are paid salaries of from \$3,000 to \$5,000 each. A great deal of it, however, is done by persons specially employed by Mr. Thompson for that purpose. Their bills, in the case of a single improvement, amount to \$3,000 in some instances. This is assessed on the propertyowners, and in some cases figures as a part of the excessive cost on which assessments are reduced.

EXTRAORDINARY VARIATIONS IN PRICES. A comparison of the prices paid by the Public Works Department on some of the sewer contracts let since April 1 shows the same extraordinary variations that ruled before the law was changed. One firm is paid \$19 89 for the same work done by another firm for \$2 45. J. Phelan got \$165 each for nine receiving basins on one contract, while Nutt & Kearns furnished receiving basins for 1 cent each. The prices for rock excavation, per cubic yard, vary from 1 cent to \$5, and for lumber from 1 cent to \$30. On other contracts already quoted in The TRIBUNE, for other street work, it was shown that as high as \$30 a cubic yard was paid for rock excavation and \$80 a thousand feet for lumber. Very few of the contracts let since April 1 on unbalanced bids have yet been completed, and hence there is no way to tell how great will be the loss to the city.

A PROFITABLE TABLE FOR STUDY. The following table gives prices on twenty-two separate contracts let since April 1, for sewer work

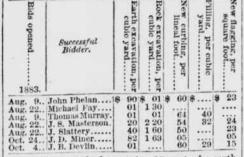
Bids opened	Contract Awarded to	Sewer per lineal foot.	Culvert per lineal foot.	Receiving basins each.	Rock excava- tion pr cubic yd	Timber per M
May 16 May 16 May 16 May 16 May 8 May 8 May 8 May 8 June 6 June 6 June 6	Lawrence Bock. Nutt & Kearns Lawrence Rock. Vincent Clark J. A Devlin. Nutt & Kearns J. McKlin & Son Henry Tone Henry Tone J. Phelan J. Phelan Nutt & Kearns Sutt & Kearns J. Concline Son Phelan J. Phelan Nutt & Kearns Nutt & Kearns Nutt & Kearns	8 60 5 00 12 80 4 75 5 60 7 50	01	150 00 125 00 61 100 00 165 00	01	20 00 20 00 20 00 30 00 10 00 10 00 5 00 10 00
July 20 Aug 9 Nov 22 Oct 29 Oct 29 Oct 29 Oct 29	Nutt & Kearns M. Baird J. A. Devlin P. Reilly C. Smith	4 00 12 00 5 90 4 ×1 6 80 5 90				25 00 25 00 25 00 26 00

Oct 4 D. McGrath 3 50 WONDERFUL BIDS OF ONE CENT.

Some of these contracts were for large amounts and the estimates and prices are of peculiar interest. One of the contracts calls for 2,000 cubic yards of rock excavation and the successful applicant for the contract bid one cent a cubic yard while other contractors bid \$3, \$4 and \$5 a cubic yard, The one cent bid, of course, took the contract. But if it should turn out that there was little or no rock to exeavate, and that the estimate was fraudulent, it will be seen at once that the bidders did not stand on even ground. On another contract, the estimate calls for 1,400 cubic yards of rock excavation. Nutt & Kearus got this contract on a bid of one cent a cubic yard for the rock. In the same contract they bid on the estimate for three receiving basins, three cents; two thousand feet of timber, two cents; fifty feet of culvert, fifty cents or one cent a After agreeing to take out the 1,400 cubic yards of rock and furnish the receiving basins, timber. etc., for practically nothing, their bid for sewer was \$7 50 a lineal foot Then, if the estimates are anything like correct, \$7 50 must be an excessive price for sewer. Otherwise how can Nutt & Kearns escape heavy loss on their contract? What then is to be said of the price paid to J. McKim & Son, \$19 89, or the price paid Vincent Clark, \$12 80, in addition to which Clark is paid \$125 each for receiving basins. A careful examination of the new sewer contracts reveals namerous startling discrepancies of the same kind, some contractors being paid 500 per cent more than others

for doing the same work. A FEW MORE FIGURES ON STREET CONTRACTS. In addition to the recent contracts for regulating and grading already published, for purposes of comarison, the following are given, showing the wide variations in price paid for similar work, and also

giving additional proof in at least three of the contracts that the unbalanced bids are not checked under the Consolidation Act :



John Phelan bid a large price, 95 cents, for earth estimated at 3,000 cubic yards while he agreed to take out 1,800 estimated cubic yards of rock at 1 cent a yard. The probabilities are, according to the developments in like contracts, that there are no 1,800 cubic yards of rock to be taken out. On this same contract Denis McGrath bid \$1 30 for rock, 30 cents for earth, and 60 cents for new curb. Among other peculiar things in regard to these contracts is the fact that James Slattery, a competing contractor, is a bondsman for John Phelan and also for Denis McGrath. In a regulating and grading contract awarded to J. D. Miner, only a few weeks ago, he receives the comfortable figure of 82 cents for earth excavation on an estimated amount of 4,500 cubic yards, while for 7,000 cubic yards of rock he gets \$1 63 a cubic yard. His bid on this contract was \$15,025. What the returns will show remains to be seen. The following will show the difference between prices on two contracts let recently on the

	Earth.	Rock.	New curbing	New flagging.
cKim & Son	.20	\$2 20	-54	.24

NUARLY THREE TIMES THE ESTIMATE. It was shown in Sunday's TRIBUNE how Commis sioner Thompson only five months ago made a contract with John Brady to make earth excavations at 88 a cubic yard. That was only one of several contracts on like unbalanced bids made with Brady. In November, 1881, Commissioner Thompson made a contract with Brady for regulating and grading in Eighty-eighth-st. The total of Brady's bid was \$9,180; the amount so far earned, as shown on the Finance Department books is \$21,120-or 162 per cent more than the bid, and the returns are not all in This, of course, was the result of the usual false estimates made in the department. The estimate on rock and earth exeavation compares with the returns so far as follows:

	Cuble yards of earth excavation.	Cubic yards of rock excavation.	Total of bid all items.	so far earned.
Estimate Return	1,730 5,000	4,920 13,300		
Brady's price.	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$9,180	\$24,120
In this excavation 18,300 cubic		0 cubic already be	estimat yards, en tak	while en out-

fraud on the face of it. The price paid for earth excavation, \$1 10 a cubic yard, is 200 per cent more than another contractor offered to do the work for, and to that extent greater than the value of the work, while the price paid for rock is up to the value of the work, as shown by the bids of reputable contractors.

### DETAILS OF PAVING CONTRACTS.

VARIATIONS IN PRICES WHICH DO NOT RESULT TO THE BENEFIT OF THE CITY.

In executing paving contracts there is a small apportunity for unbalanced bids for the reason that the Department of Public Works could find no exense for false estimates, except gross incompetency. But the prices paid by the city for the same work vary in a great degree. Mr. Thompson always lets the contract whether the price bid is excessive or and \$3 48 a square yard for doing the same work that other contractors did for 80 per cent less. During the present year he has been paid for trap block pavement \$2 25 per sonare yard and 60 cents a square foot for crosswalks, both on one contract while on another contract for the same work he furnished the crosswalks for nothing (in case the estimate was correct), and received \$1.57 for the pavement-a difference of over 50 per cent. Some of these paying contracts amount to large sums \$60,000 to \$100,000, and a small variation in price makes a great difference in results. In thirteen paying contracts let on the same day, the prices varied in all. It was a curious coincidence that the bidvaried so that all the unsuccessful bidders on one contract were successful on others opened at the same time. It is evident that a system of letting out contracts for the same kind of work which gives such results as shown by the following table does not operate to the interest of the city:

	Bids opened.	Contract awarded to	block p'r	block p'r	bridges per sq. ft.
The second second second	June 20 June 20 June 20 June 20 June 20 June 20	W. Keity. M. Shannon Thomas Gearty Thomas Gearty W. A. Cumbu W. A. Cumbu	2 04	\$1.81 1.93 2.25 1.91	\$ 40 57 60 20 39
	June 29 June 29 June 29 June 29 June 29 June 29 June 29 Aug. 9 Aug. 9	P. H. Fitzgerild Thomas Marray George F. Doak W. Kelly W. A. Cuming George F. Doak William Kelly W. A. Cuming F. H. Fitzgerald	2 63 1 565 2 04 2 43 1 95 2 20	1 98	34 40 87 40 87
	Aug. 0 Aug. 0 Oct. 4 Oct. 4 Oct. 4	W A. Cuming Thomas Gearty Thomas Gearty	1 97 1 95 1 91 2 04 2 00	1 57	47 10 39 10
	Previous to Apr. 1 April 1 April 1		2395		40
	April				

### THE NEW DISTRICT-ATTORNEY.

MR. OLNEY PROMISES THOROUGH INVESTIGATION District-Attorney Peter B. Olney took the oath of office yesterday, and was welcomed at the District-Attorney's office by Mr. Peckham, who appeared to be glad to be relieved of the responsibilities of the position. Mr. Oiney said to a TRIBUNE reporter: I am in full sympathy with Mr. Peckham's ideas as to the management of the office. My aim will be to make the office efficient. I shall learn its details, and will then be able to see if any changes are needed. As to the investigations that are going on I hope that they will be thorough; and I shall try to punish wrong wherever it is found."

When asked what course he should pursue in regard to the disclosures made in THE TRIBUNE, Mr. Olney said: "From whatever source information omes it will be used, and no favor shall be shown. Neither will there be any persecution. It makes no difference what department is involved, if there is anything wrong it must be investigated and punished. The District-Attorney can know no friendship that will interfere with the full discharge of

NOT BOUND TO ACCEPT IMPROPER BIDS. AN IMPORTANT SUGGESTION BY A LAWYER WILL HAS STUDIED THE SUBJECT.

The law firm of Allison & Shaw has made specialty of business in relation to the vacation and odification of assessments for city improvements. Mr. Shaw, when asked yesterday about his experience in these matters, said:

"The number of unbalanced bids for contracts before 1880, when Commissioner Thompson came into control, was comparatively small. The old jobs of work which the city began to do by days labor before 1873 were many of them unfinished when the Charter of 1873 went into effect. These lingered along for several years but had nearly all been completed in 1880. Therefore since Mr.

IRISH AFFAIRS.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. PARNELL IN DUBLIN, WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF IRISH AGITATION.

Dublin, Dec. 11 .- The banquet given tonight in the Rotunda, at which was presented to Mr. Parnell the National tribute, was attended by persons from all parts of Ireland and Great Britain, as well as from more distant places. Five hundred and eighty tickets to the banquet were sold. Great precautions were taken to prevent any but members of the National League entering the Rotunda during the ceremonies. Among those present were Mesara Sullivan, Sexton, O'Brien, Biggar, Grey, Healy, O'Conner, and other members of Parliament. Lord Mayor Dawson presided. Mr. Davitt, in the course of his response to the toast, "Ireland a Nation," said that, led by Mr. Parnell, they might believe themselves on the threshold of heralding in the Irish nation, Lord Mayor Dawson then read the address to

Mr. Parnell, on rising to reply, was cheered Mr. Parnell, on rising to reply, was cheered for several minutes. He referred to the formation of the Land League and said: "Never was there a movement formed to contend against such a system of robbery and fraud, in the carrying out of which there was so much moderation displayed and such an absence of crime. There are 30,000 soldiers and 15,000 police in Ireland. The law of habeas corpus has been repeatedly violated, the most significant example being when a laborand Irishmen were imprisoned by "Buckshot" Forster. If the Liberals wish the Irish to co-operate with them there must be no more coercive emigration. We regard any system of emigration that we have yet had in this country as a murderous blow against the life of our nation, being accompanied by untold sufferings on the part of the victims. Three-fourths of the emigrants from Ireland during the last year or two have been compelled to find homes in miscrable garrets in New-York, Boston and Montreal.

"If we are to be emigrated or coerced we prefer to have the dose administered by the Tories rather than by wolves in sheep's clothing, the Whigs. The prosent Irish Executive is characterized by greater meanness and incapacity than any of his predecessors, Earl Spencer came to Ireland as a sort of inferior tottle-holder to Forster. We are not surprised that Earl Spencer should do his best to initate the biggest coerclouist who ever came to Ireland, and that he should desire to give full play to the unbridled insults and passions of the foreign garrison in Ireland. We must be patient if we wish to win. Coercion cannot last forever. It is certain that it reats with Irishmea to determine at the next general election whether a Liberal or Tory Government shall rule England. This is a great force; that if we cannot rule ourselves we can cause England to be ruled as we choose."

Mr. Dawson presented Mr. Parnell with a check for 238,000 as a national titloute. for several minutes. He referred to the formation of the

CHICAGO, Dec. 11.—The following dispatch was sent by ard Mayor Dawson to Alexander Sullivan: Twelve hundred Nationalists in meeting here in honor of Parnell greef America and send thanks for her sym-

Mr. Sullivan replied as follows: Irish America salutes Ireland, re-echoes her cheers for Parnell, and will never cease struggling with her liberty

EFFORTS TO SAVE O'DONNELL. MR. SULLIVAN ANXIOUS TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE JURY.

London, Dec. 11 .- Every effort is being made by the friends and counsel of O'Donnell to procure a respite from Sir William Harcourt, Home Secretary, for the condemned man. Charles Russell, chief of the counsel for O'Donnell, has written a letter to Mr. Gladstone forethly drawing his attention to a communication from A. M. Sullivan, also of O'Donnell's counsel, addressed to Mr. Russell, in reference to the alleged misapprehension by the jury of Judge Denman's language in his charge The matter has been laid before Sir William Harcourt

The matter has been laid before Sir William Harcourt and the United States Government, and important inquiries are proceeding in regard to it.

A. M. Sallivan writes to The Pull Mail Gazette that it is essential to lim to see the jurgers who tried and convicted O'Donnell in order that he may ascertain the correctness of the statements which have been made in Mr. Russell's correspondence with the Government, but says that Solicitor Guy is still anable to find them. Mr. Sallivan says he has no doubt that the members of the jury would come forward if they knew that the life or death of O'Donnell hung upon the issue. For want of this information ten days of the sixteen remaining to O'Donnell since the trial have been lost. Mr. Guy's appeal through the press for the addresses of the Jurors was sent to the principal newspapers, but was published by only one. Mr. Sallivan expresses inclimation at such treatment, and says that all means of knowing the jurors has been dealed the defendant's counsel during and since the trial.

### CRIMES AND TRIALS OF IRISHMEN.

DUBLIN, Dec. 11 .- In the Court of Queen's ench to-day, before Chief Justice May, the trial of Robert Elliott and others on the charge of conspiracy t murder William Smythe, of Barbavilla, was continued. After some further formal evidence had been taken, the case for the Crown was closed. Dr. Boyd, counsel for the not. Thus it comes that Thomas Gearty has been defence, commented upon the fact that Elliott had not been tried on the charge of murder, for which he had been and) ted, and said that more shallow and unsatisfactory evidence than that which had been evoked in this trial had never been given by the Crown in an important

eccdings in the trial of Eliiott says the case for the Crown s collapsing, as the approvers in their testimony con-radict each other. SLIGO, Dec 11.-The trial of Michael Dillon for the mirder of Constable Litton, at Longhrea, in August,

1881, was begun here to-day. Four of the nine men who pleaded guilty yesterday to ne charge of conspiracy to murder Martin Lyden, of concenars, County Galway, were to-day sentenced to

LOSDON, Dec. 11.-Major Majendie, the Government Inspector of Explosives, has made an official report upon the explosions on the Metropolitan Underground Raflway at the Praced Street and Charing Cross Stations, on the evening of October 30. He repeats his heretofore expressed conviction that the dynamite used in the charge, in each case, was dropped from the trains. In the Praed-st, case the charge explored prematurely. He considers that these outrages have a distinct connection with those attempted at Giasgow and elsewhere.

THE TROUBLES OF FRANCE AND CHINA. ADMIRAL COURSET WAITING FOR REINFORCE MENTS-THE ATTITUDE OF GERMANY.

Paris, Dec. 11.-The Government has re ceived a telegram from Admirable Courbet, dated Ha-Noi, December 2, in which he states that he is awaiting the arrival of the reinforcements which are on board the transport Correze, before beginning the attack on Sontay and Bac-Ninh.

LONDON, Dec. 11.-The Paris correspondent of The Times says that after the vote of yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies on the Tonquia Credits bill, China must abandon all hope of France retreating from the position she has taking in the negotiations. The time has come for the neutral Powers to dispel the likesions of the Chinese upon this point, and to urge upon China the neces-

BERLIN, Dec. 11.—The North German Gazette, referring o the statement in a speech delivered by the Marquis of Harrington, the British Sceretary of State for War, at Accrington, on December 1, that the British Government Accrington, on December 1, that the British Government had received an latimaton from the German Government that it is willing to ec-operate with England to protect their subjects and interests in China in the event of war between Frunce and China, says that Germany has merely acceded to a desire of the British Cabinet that the etween France and China, says that Germany has herely acceled to a desire of the British Cabinet that the we countries should co-operate with a view to the pro-sction of their respective subjects, and that no manifes ation, either for or against France or China, could have een contemplated. The sole object of such co-operation s to protect Europeans in the ovent of an outbreak shul-ar to that which occurred at Canton.

THE CROWN PRINCE'S JOURNEY. Berlin, Dec. 11 .- The North German Gazette, ditorially commenting on the visit of the Crown Prince o Rome, says that international courtesy required that Italy, should visit the sovereign thereof, and that it was just as natural, the Prince being in Rome, that he should visit the second sovereign, namely, the Pope, who lives at peace with Germany, since it might otherwise becom clusted that there was ill-feeling between the imperial family and the Pope. It concludes by saying that there are no special or political motives involved in either the visit of the Prince to the King of Italy or to the Pope.

The visit of Herr von Gossler, Minister of Public Instruction and Ecclesiastical Alidira, to Genoa, for the purpose of meeting the Crown Prince on his return, has been abandoned.

THE BOLIVIAN COMMISSIONERS. [BY CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN CABLE.] LIMA, Dec. 11, via Galveston.— LI Bien Publico states that the Bolivian Commissioners arrived at Santiago, Chili, and within forty-eight hours after their Santiago, Chin, and was a peace, the conditions of which would enable both armies to lay down their arms. The 2,000 troops of Caceres recognize the present Government. His submission has made a good impression

MR. TENNYSON'S TITLE. London, Dec. 11.-It is reported that the

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.

of State for Foreign Affairs, speaking at a Liceral meeting

London, Dec. 11.—Earl Graville, Secretary

attack formerly directed against the Government on account of the Alabama claims settlement, and said he be-lieves that that convention was one of the highest tri-umphs of diplomacy.

POOR PERSONS CRUSHED TO DEATH. Moscow, Dec. 11 .- An immense throng of poor people gathered to-day before the house of a merchant lately deceased to receive the money that is usually distributed at the demise of a wealthy person. The pressure was so great that several persons were crushed to death and four were severely injured.

TREATY BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE. THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF THE TWO COUN-

TRIES TO BE IMPROVED. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] OTTAWA, Dec. 11.-Sir Charles Tupper, Canadian High Commissioner at London, will arrive here this week from England to conclude a commercial treaty between the Dominion and French Governments. Sir A. T. Galt, when High Commissioner in 1878, attempted to negotiate a similar treaty, but failed. Negotiations were renewed in 1881, and within the past few weeks the basis of a treaty to which both countries agree has been estab-lished. Canada heretofore has received no advantage from England's treaties with France. This is to be remedied. In order to promote direct trade with France an ditional tax has heretofore been imposed on all Canadian products sent to France through England. This tax will products sent to France through England. This tax will be removed. These concessions are made on the understanding that, with the permission of the British Government, Canada accepts French products under the most favored nations clause; also that the Dominion Government remove ad valorem duty on French whose, leaving only a specific duty of one shilling per imperial gallon. The French also agree to vote an annual subsidy equal to the subsidy voted by the Canadian Government to establish direct steam communication between Canada and France. A subsidy of \$50,000 was voted by the Canadian Government to establish direct steam communication between Canada and A subsidy of \$50,000 was voted by the Cameliament last year, although nothing further was

MATTERS IN THE DOMINION. KINGSTON, Ont., Dec. 11 .- The Rev. Dr. Wilon, for participating in the Salvation Army meetings, has been formally dismissed from the curacy of St. George's

been holding the position of organist in a prominent church, and who was about to marry a wealthy young lady, turns out to be a married man who deserted his wife in New-York. She is now seeking a divorce from him in Scotland.

OTTAWA, Dec. 11.-The Governor-General has received rom the British Ambassador at Washington a handsome gold, stem-winding watch, inscribed as follows: "Presented by the President of the United States to Ezra C. Roach, master of the British bark Brazil, of Yarmouth,

Nova Scotla, in recognition of his humanity in rescuing the crew of the American schooner Nellie Bell at sea, or April 2, 1879."

It is expected that the customs returns for November will show that the imports of floor from the United States have greatly increased, and that the Dominion revenue from this source will be large.

Toronto, Dec. 11.-Trevelyn Ridout, a well-known barrister of this city, disappeared two months ago. To-day his body was found in High Park, with a revolver day his body was found in High Park, with a revolver clutched in his hand. It is supposed that the rejection of his suit by a young lady affected his mind.

Commander Cheyne, R. N., has received a communica-tion Coulombed States Secretary of State Fredinghuysen, stating that the Secretary of War has decided that the scheme for reaching the North Pole by bulloons is im-practicable, which ends the matter.

#### FOREIGN NOTES.

AGRAM, Dec. 11.—The newly appointed Ban of Creatia arrived here yesterday and was received with much en-thusiasm.

BELGRADE, Dec. 11.—The judges at Zaitchar condemued a radical editor and a radical deputy to death for partici-pation in the recent revolt, but King Milan commuted the sent-nee. Two other radicals were sentenced to eighty-five years' imprisonment. MANCHESTER, Dec. 11.—The committee of the cotton

day. The latter declined the proposal to accept a reduc-

Hungarian Diet has rejected the bill legalizing marriages between Jews and Christians. BRUSSELS, Dec. 11.-M. Descamps, President of the Chamber of Deputies, in his opening speech, referred to the fire of last week, and said the Government would take charge of the families of these who were killed or

LOSDON, Dec. 11.-A Rome dispatch says the Pope has approved the proposal for the erection of a memorial church to Daniel O'Connell, at Cabireiveen, County Kerry, Ireland, and has promised a gift for the corner-stone.

ROME, Dec. 11.—In the Chamber of Deputies to-day the

BURLIN, Dec. 11.-The Centre Party of the Landing has decided that for the present it will postpone submitting

#### THE BOSTON REFORM TICKET WINS. GENERAL MARTIN ELECTED MAYOR OVER HUGH O'BRIEN-CHARACTER OF THE CONFLICT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Boston, Dec. 11.—The reform movement in Boston has triumphed. The city the past year has been disgraced by one of the most corrupt and most incompetent Governments that ever occupied the City Hall. It entained a number of good men in cach branch, out the majority were of the cheap and tricky order. Not a few of them I ved about half of the year at the expense of the city, using the names of the reputable members to cover General Augustus P. Martin is elected Mayor by about

1,500 majority over Hugh O'Brien. The chances are that the Citizens' ticket has been generally successful.

The horse railway question entered largely into this election. There is no railway fight in progress now, and has not been for some time, but each corporation jealisly watches the other. When the Citizens' ticket for Alderman was first published it created a great stir among the Highland and South Boston managers, who did not propose to support a ticket made up to suit the Metropolitan Company. After a vigorous protest had been uttered some changes were made, but the O'Brien ticket was supported by the South Boston and Highland companies. Boston voters are virtuously alert and stupidly indifferent by turns. Unless precedents pass for nothing, next year the "bummers" may return to power. A virtuous and able City Council is rarely retained more than one or two years, if the "bummers" obtain control of the newspapers and make war on the City Hall. Directly there is a change, and so it goes that about every two years the city is disgraced by an incompetent and corrupt administration. The Democrats are largely in the majority, but there is enough decency in the community to turn the rascais out when their practices became notoriously bad. The defeated candidate for Mayor, Hugh O'Brien, has been in the City Council for several years, and has been regarded as a decent, capable business man, but his affiliations the past two years were not creditable, and he has assumed the airs of the "boss" among the cheaper grades of Democracy. General Martin is a well-known leather-dealer, and stands high in the community. Metropolitan Company. After a vigorous protest had

LONGSTREET ON SOUTHERN POLITICS. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRESUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 11.—General Longstreet was asked to-day what he thought of the condition and prospects of the Republican party in Georgia. " The Reomblican party in Georgia " he replied; " well, so far as I can see, there is no Republican party in Georgia. It is a shadow without substance. The vote of the Republicans in that State is not large enough for them as a body to be called a party. The only time there is any evidence of the existence of a Republican party in Georgia is when there are offices to be filled. Then we hear something

" How about the Republican party in the South generally I' he was asked.

"Looking over the entire field." replied General Longstreet, "I am constrained to say, that in the other Southern States the Republican party is no better off than in Georgia. The only chance of there ever being such a party is to carry Virginia. Virginia was lost this year, but there is going to be a strong effort to carry it in the next election. If it is not carried then, the last chance of the Republicans in the South will, in my opinion, be lost."

### CORNELL UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTORS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 11 .- At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University last night Charles Dudley Warner was ap. pointed non-resident lecturer on recent English literature and Albert H. Tolman, A. B., of Johns Hopkins University was elected instructor in Angio-Saxon and to assist Professor Corson in his department.

## WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] ALBANY, Dec. 11.-Superintendent of Public Instruction Ruggles to-day, in a contested school meeting case, hanged down an opinion sustaining the law of 1881, in London last evening, referred to an allusion made to

entitling women to vote at school meetings. This is the first adjudication upon the constitutionality of the law.

GONE TO THE JURY.

JUDGE FOLLETT'S CHARGE IN THE DWIGHT IN-SURANCE CASE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] NORWICH, N. Y., Dec. 11.-This was the twenty-third day of proceedings in the Dwight insurance case. The court-room was well filled with eager listeners, whose interest in the case seemed to increase rather than

to diminish by reason of its nearing its close. The charge of Judge Follett was of great length. He briefly impressed upon the jury the importance of the in-terests they had in charge, and then reviewed the evidence generally. He said that there were not a half dozen controverted questions of fact in the case, and pointed out the evidence which should govern the jury in their decision, and the character of the expert testimony. In discussing this branch of the case, the Judge expressed surprise and disapprobation of the manner in which two prominent experts had confessed to having acted in a triple capacity during this trial, in the preparation of the questions, in formulating the answers, and by sugges-tions and advice and consultations with the attorneys during the trial. Such a course tended to bring expert testimony into disrepute, and caused it to be looked upon with great caution, if not with absolute distrust. He had never before in the history of his career as a judge been cognizant of such a transaction. He hoped he never would be never

cognizant of such a transaction. He hoped he never would be again.

The sourt then referred to the questions of fact to be submitted to the jury, which have already been published. Taking them up in detail, he gave the evidence which bears upon them, and the application to each. In regard to the questions as to splitting blood, and to frand and suicide, the Judge spoke at length and declavely, referring to the claims as made upon either side. He concluded by giving the answers that should be made to the questions, if their decision should be made for one or the other of the litigants, and the form of the verdict as a whole; after which the constables were sworn and the jury placed in their keeping. At a late hour to-night the jury were still out.

#### GRAVE-YARD INSURANCE.

FALL RIVER PEOPLE MUCH INTERESTED - THE GRAND JURY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 11.—The discovery of grave-yard insurance frauds forms the general subject of discussion here; and conjecture is rife as to the probble action of the Grand Jury regarding it. The Grand Jury have now been in session longer than at any previous term of court for years, and it is believed now that the life insurance business, as conducted in this city, both by unserupulous agents and others, will be thoroughly sifted, and a remedy devised to prevent the consummation of any deceptive plans resorted to, to mulet insur-ance companies. The investigation is being continued, and several cases our which policies are being paid show

Additional facts are gathered in the case of Charles Admittonar facts are galacted with the affair has said that the corpse, instead of being that of Charles Russell, a man thirty years nine months and thirteen days old, as the coffin-plate inscription indicated, was fully sixty years old. He had sandy hair with a gray tuft on top. The body appeared to have been pickled and " im top. The body appeared to have been pickled and "imported" to this city, as he expressed it, and then carried to the house on Orchardst, supposibly in a sugar barrel, where it was placed in the coffin. One man employed by the undertaker, when spoken to about the case, considered it a significant coincidence that he had recently seen two young men, who are supposed to be connected with the affair, making a survey of the cemeter on Highland-ave; the implication being that a grave had been robust of its occupant to subserve their purpose. Life insurance agents are disconified at the discioures, and some of them who are under suspicion declare their total incorance of such transactions, and state they kept no record of their business.

The Grand Jury are expected to report to-morrow afternoon.

#### BEING TRIED FOR BURGLARY.

A CASE WHICH INTERESTS EXPERT CRACKSMEN AND DETECTIVES. INVITELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

KINGSTON, N. Y., Dec. 11.—The trial of Charles Mahon, the safe burglar, who was arrested in New-York on November 14 for breaking open and robbing the safe of Myron Duboise, of Ellenville, in July last, be gan in the Court of Sessions here this morning. Mahon is ndicted jointly with John Moore. Both were arrested at the same time. It was decided to try them separately. The court-room has been crowded all day, and much interest is manifested. Robert Pinkerton and other leading New-York detectives are in attendance, and it is said that a number of well-known cronics of the noted cracksmen are here. Most of the foremon was occupied in getting a ity from the Chamber to prosecute Baron Nicotera for assault on a public official, and to prosecute both Earon Nicotera and Signer Lovito for duelling.

The District-Attorney, in opening, displayed a value full of burgiars' tools of the latest and most inscalors. full of burglars' tools of the latest and most ingenious pattern, which were found in the house of the prisoners when captured; also the heavy safe door which had been entered on the night of the crime. The tools fitted the holes drilled in the door. The main question is on the blentity of the prisoners, both of whom are shrewd looking men. Jewelry valued at more than \$4,000 was taken. The safe was opened in the most skifful manner known to the profession. Dubolse and his clerk swore that they believe Mahon to be the man who was in the store the evening preceding the burglary, had a crystal put in his watch, and examined other lewelry. Another witness identified the prisoner as one of two men he saw in the woods near Elleuville on the morning of the burglary. Some of the stoken lewelry as identified by Dubolse. The case is likely to occupy two days more. The cressexaminations by the defence were long and severe.

# WANTED TO MARRY MISS GARFIELD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

CLEVELAND, Dec. 11 .- A lunatic from St. ouis was arrested here this afternoon. For several days he has been a caller at the Garfield house. He claims to a lineal descendant of George Washington. He says that his name is George Washington, and he desires to marry Miss Mollie Garfield at once. The police were in-formed of his actions this afterneon, and Superintendent Schmitt detailed an officer to arrest him.

SELLING OLD NEWSPAPERS FOR NEW. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Baltimore, Dec. 11 .- A large number of en from New-York have arrived here with stacks of old National Police Gazette extres besued at the time of the elebrated Sullivan-Ryan fight in New-Orleans, which they are selling rapidly to the guilible as extras of a newly fought battle. They have thus fooled several thousand persons. Fully one-half believe a contest has just been fought.

THROWN INTO A STREAM AND DROWNED. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUSE.] POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Dec. 11.-Hugh Stanton, proprietor of a restaurant on Madison-ave., Albany, left Castleton last night in a light buggy for home. The horse became frightened on the road, and running away upset the buggy, when Stanton was thrown into a stream of water from a bridge and was drowned.

CANDIDATES FOR SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 11.-Newton Dexter, of this city, announced to-day that he is a candidate for Sergeant-at-arms of the Assembly. For two years Mr. Dexter has been one of the clerks of the Republican

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH.

A MOB INTENT ON HANGING.
WHEELING, W. Va., Dec. 11.—"Big Bill" Kinney,
whose trial for murder at West Union, yesterday, resulted in a
tleagreeness of the jury, has been hanged by a mob, which
started for Clarksburg, where a cousto or Kinney is in jail for
manslaughter, to hang where a cousto or Kinney is in jail for
manslaughter, to hang where a cousto or Kinney is in jail for

manstagater, to using nin also.

A MINISTER FALLS FROM A CHAIR.

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Dec. 11.—The Rev. George
W. Evans, secretary of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Asso-ciation, fell from a chair in his office yesterdy, afternoon,
while trying to reach some books on a high shelf, and was se-verely jointred.

verely injured.

USING REVENUE STAMPS TWICE.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Dec. 11.—Michael McHugh and William Kendrick, of Susquehanna Depot, and P. G. Tiffany, of Great Bend, have been held in \$-00 to appear at the United States Court, at Pittsburg, for using liquor packages the second time without destroying the stamps.

the second time without destroying the stamps.

FATAL FIGHTS-SIX MEN KILLED.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 11.—In Letcher County, a remote mountain destrict, on Friday last, David Hall and Joseph Wells engaged in a fight, which ended in both being fairally wounded. At Fleid's still-house, on Comberland River, last week, W. H. Fields shot four quarreisome and drunked men, killing two outright.

A THACK WALLED.

men, kining two outright.

A TRACK-WALKER KILLED.

A TRACK-WALKER KILLED.

ITHACA, N. Y., Dec. 11.—John Quinn, a trackwalker on the Geneva, Ithaca and Sayre Railroad, was struck
by a recight train hast night at Covert, and instantly killed.
The body of the unfortunate man was hirrled into a field about
a hundred feet from the scene of the accident.

The body of the accident.

A hundred feet from the scene of the accident.

WICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 11.—The negro fiend who criminally assaulted a girl of afteen, the daughter of T. B. Lyon, of Jackson, last Friday, and who was pursued, shot and left tor dead last sunday evening, was in a fair way of recovery, when a body of enraged men repaired to his house last might, near Clinton, took him to the nearest tree, swaing him up, and did not leave until he was pronounced dead.

ACQUITTIED OF MURDERING HER CHILD.

WILKESBARE, Dec. 11.—In the case of Mary Rowman, charged with the number of her child while at North Mountain last summer picking berries, the jury this evening rendered a verdict of not guilty.

FEDERAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

SENATE REORGANIZATION. THE MATTER PROBABLY TO BE DISPOSED OF TO-

MORROW. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Dec. 11 .- The question of reorganizing the Senate still confronts the Republican members of that body. Senator Anthony's arrival has hastened matters somewhat, and it is, therefore, probable that the Republican caucus called for Thursday morning will take up the question and decide upon it without further delay. Two candidates are mentioned now in connection with the Secretaryship-General Anson McCook and Edward McPherson. General

McCook is warmly supported by the soldier element and by many friends outside its element and by many friends outside its ranks. It is conceded on all sides that he would make an efficient as well as popular officer. The friends of Mr. McPherson urge in his favor his long experience as Clerk of the House and his almost ideal fitness for the position. Mr. Canady, of North Carolina, who is a candidate for Sergeant-at-Arms, counts among those who will advocate his cause such men as Senators Sherman and Harrison, the former of whom is not likely to forget Mr. Canady's services four years ago in concentrating the opposition to Grant in North Carolina upon him. What the Senators favoring Gorham will do seems doubtful. They will probably bring forward their candidate and urge his nomination upon the cancus. It will then depend upon the strength which the opposition to him will develop. There are many Senators who feel friendly toward him and who are willing to forget the past. On the other hand, there are at least six or seven who are reported to have declared their determination not to vote for him under any circumstances. Senators Mahone and Riddleberger, if is said, will not insist upon Gorham's election, but vote for the nominee of the Republican caucus, who ever he may be.

#### MR. ANTHONY AGAIN IN THE SENATE. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 11 .- Senator Anthony occupied his seat in the Senate for a short time to-day. long enough to be sworn in and to receive the congratula-tions of his colleagues and friends upon his recovery from his late illness. The Senate had been engaged only a few minutes in the discharge of the customary routine business of the morning hour when the door leading to the private lobby opened and Senator Anthony, leaning on the arm of Senator Aldrich and assisted by one of the deputy sergeants-at-arms, was seen to make his way to flowers had been placed for him. He looked pale and careworn. His features showed the traces of his recent sickness and it seemed to cost him an effort to rise when, upon the motion of Senator Abdrich to admit him to his slekness and it seemed to cost him an effort to rise when, upon the motion of Senator Aldrich to admit him to his seat, he approached the President's chair to take the oath. All present rose. An impressive silence ensued during the reading of the formula. Every eye in the Chamber was directed toward the little group and upon the man whose uplifted hand, emaclated and trembling, told the story of his recent sufferings. Returned to his seat, Mr. Anthony was surroun led by a large number of Senators and friends eager to shake hands with him and to welcome him back to his old seat. He soon rose, however, and left the Senate Chamber.

MR. PHELPS'S ALASKA BILL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The bill which Mr. Phelps to-day introduced in the House, a synopsis of which has been sent in the general dispatches, is intended to cure a neglect which Alaska can complain of, and Russia as well. The bill is to establish a civil govern ment for Alaska. Up to this time, as the President says in his message, the inhabitants have " had no law for the collection of debts, the support of education, the admin-istration of estates or the enforcement of contracts." It seems that in the treaty we promised Russia that the people, where civilized, should be admitted to the enjoyent of all the rights and immunities of citizens of the United States, and it is now time that the Government did omething to keep its promise. Four or five bills have dready been introduced.

Mr. Phelps's bill is practically the same as the one inreduced by Senator Harrison. It differs in adding a secion which commits the education of the native children to the United States Commissioner of Education. This interest has been grossly neglected. Under Russian control there were schools. Since there have been none, and this grave omission has been noticed and deprended by the leading churches and missionary societies of the

ountry.
The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Courch has The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Cource has appointed a special committee to wait on Congress to solicit action. Sympathy and interest in various ways have been exhibited, also, by the Methodist Baptist, Episcopal and Moravian churches. For sixteen years Alaska has been in an anomalous condition. The population is now about 25,000. The area is twice that of Texas. The vast interior has never been explored, and there are great hopes of rich discoveries when the unknown land is entered.

IN AID OF AMERICAN COMMERCE. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 .- A bill introduced by interest to a great number of people in that State. It abolishes all tonnage dues on all canal boats loading with coal in New-York and Pennsylvania, and going through the Erie, Champlain, Oswego and other canals into Canada, and returning leaded with lumber, grain and other merchandise; also on American tugs and tow boats towing the same; also on Ontario and other frontier lakes, going into Canada and returning with cargoes; also on the like vessels navigat-ing the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, River Rio Grande,

The movement to remove the burdens and restrictions The movement to remove the burdens and restrictions upon American commerce scens to be gathering strength in the House, and something might be accomplished at this session were it not for the extreme demands of the free-trade Democrats. Mr. Dingley, of Maine, said to-day that he has some hope of the getting a fair bill. It is also anxious that some legislation shall be had which will bring the Government into some relations with American commerce in addition to those required by the collection of revenue or the imposition of fines and penalties. "We need a Bureau of Commerce analogous to the Board of Trade of Great Britain," said Mr. Dingley. "All that our Government officers have to do with commerce now is to exact money from and to hamper instead of encouraging it."

#### A GOOD OFFICER DISPLACED. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 .- The appointment to-day of William Butler, of South Carolina, as Librarian of the House, in place of W. H. Smith, is a fair example of what may be expected of a Democratic House in the way of turning out deserving and trained employes to make room for party followers. Smith has the misfortune of being a negro; Butler is the brother of no less a on than Senator M. C. Butler. Smith's competency and ability to fill the place.

o which he was appointed seventeen years ago by Mr. McPherson, was admitted on all sides, by Mr. McFarran, was succeed by Mr. McFarran and Mr. So valuable were his services that the Democrats, after removing him when they came into power in 1875, had to reinstate him because no other person could be found competent to perform the duries of the Librarian satisfactority. Smith has the reputation of being the best informed and most thoroughly equipped man in the employ of the House.

of the House.

The place requires a man who has a special knowledge of the laws and all the Government documents, and this Smith possessed in an unusual degree. This is proved by his havin, been nominally put in charge of the branch library, at a reduced salary of course, but where he will be compelled to do the same work as before. Mr. Butler's inexperience preclades the possibility of his discharging the duties of the office satisfactorily.

MR. SKINNER AND THE TRADE DOLLAR.

Washington, Dec. 11,-Representative Skinner's bill for the redemption of trade dollars differs in one or two important particulars from all the other measures proposed in relation to that subject. It provides that the Treasurer or any Assistant Treasurer of the United States shall redeem trade dollars when presented in sums of \$10 or more. He is to take them at the current market value of sliver bultion of like weight and equal flueness, and pay for them in standard silver dollars. The trade dollars so redcemed are to be regarded as purchases of builtion within the meaning of the compulsory provision of the Sliver Comage act of February, 1878, and are to be re-

coined.

Another bill offered by Mr. Skinner repeals the compulsory provision of the Silver Coinage act, gives the Secretary of the Treasury power to have such amount of silver coined from time to time as he may deem necessary, and reduces the builton fund for the purchase of silver builton from \$5,000,000 to \$1.000,000.

MR. ROBINSON SEEKS INFORMATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 .- In the House to-day Mr. Robinson, of New-York, presented a resolution of inquiry, calling on the Secretary of the Interior for information concerning the purchase of public lands by foreign noblemen, so-called, and titled aliens, with their names and the amount of acres purchased, and also for such information as may enable the House to formulate such laws as shall prevent the establishment of land monopolies and landlord systems in our country, and provide against having the public domain fall under the power of aliens; also calling on the Secretary of State for information concerning the arrest, imprisonment and torture of John E. Wheeloek, a citizen of the United States and rest. dent of Brooklyn, by the Government of Venezuela in 1879 and the steps taken to have Wheelock's claim acknowledged by Venezuela; also calling on the same